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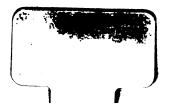
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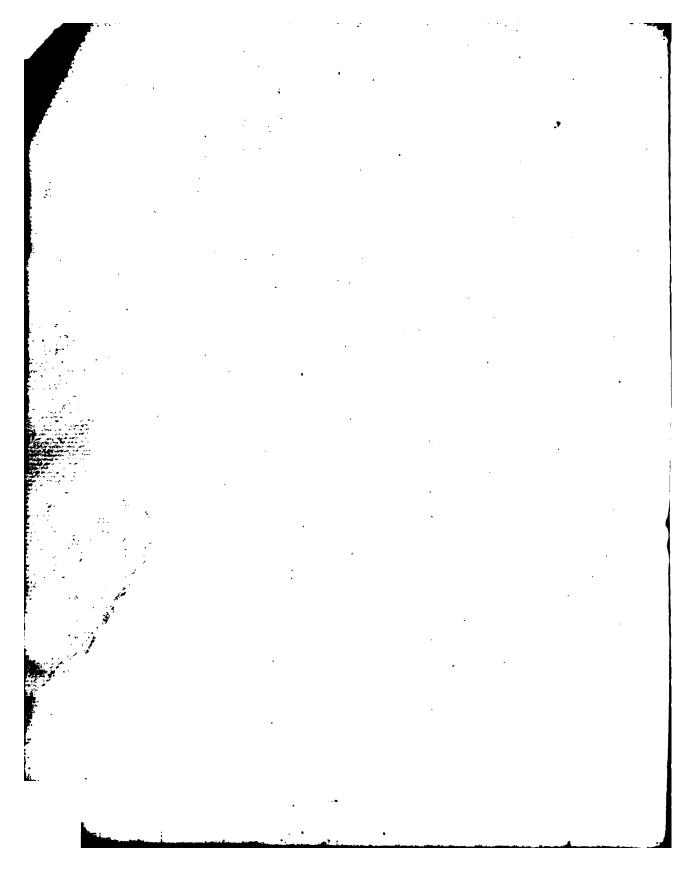
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M. C.



CALEDONIAN HEROINE,

OR THE

INVASION AND FALL

0 F

SUENO THE DANE.

IN TWO CANTOS.

Arma virumque cana. VIRG.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by WAL. RUDDIMAN and COMPANY,

M,DCC,LXXI.

ATTOMICS TO ATTOMICS.

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TO

The Right Honourable
The Lady ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND,
Countefs of SUTHERLAND,
Lady STRATHNAVER, &c.

To the Lady ELIZABETH WEMYSS.

To the Lady ALVA.

To the Right Honourable the Lord BALGONY.

To the Honourable ARCHIBALD DOUGLAS of Douglas.

To the Honourable JAMES WEMYSS of Wemyss.

To the Honourable FRANCIS CHARTERIS of Amisfield.

To the Honourable Colonel JAMES ST. CLAIR of St. Clair.

To Sir DAVID DALRYMPLE of Hailes, Baronet.

And to all the NOBLE and HONOURED GUARDIANS of the NOBLE HEIR and REPRESENTATIVE of the most ancient EARLS of SUFHERLAND.

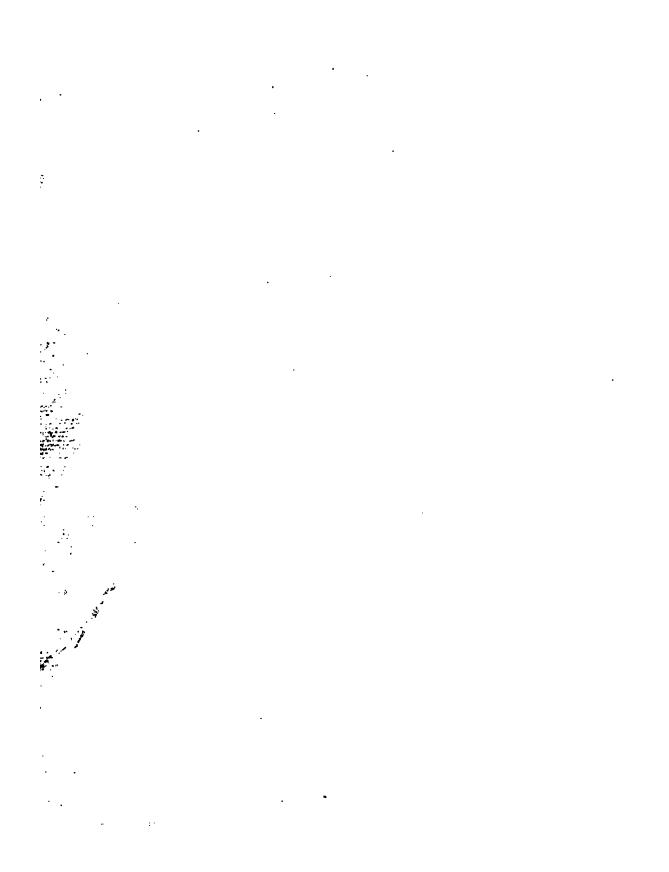
These Cantos are

With the most prosound respect,

Inscribed by their most dutiful;

And obedient humble servant,

Dysert, 21st March 1771. probledoile principle of the Bersch Church Dysork



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THE delign of these cantos now offered to the publick, is to celebrate the late glorious decision of the British peers, in favours of the noble heir and representative of the most illustrious and ancient Earls of SUTHERLAND.

no spous

THE invasion of SCOTLAND by the SCANDIAN Princes, is a dark period of history, and most suitable of any for poetical relation and invention. Fancy may range unchallenged in so large a common, and defy the jargon of critical strictures.

THE conflict here related happened hard by the Castle of DUNROBIN, the ancient seat and residence of these heroes. After ravaging the southern counties of Scotland, Sueno landed in SUTHERLAND, and was there entirely routed. descare.

Some tombs of the Danish king and his chieftains, are still to be seen at some little distance from the family seat.

THE writer of these cantos might have greatly availed himself by the perusal of that very learned and ingenious

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defence published lately in behalf of the Countess of SUTHERLAND, her rights and titles, by Sir DAVID DALRYMPLE of HALES, Baronet, one of the Lords of Council and Session, and guardian to the Countess, but the hurry of an occasional poem, which must be got through in a day or two, and being at too great a distance to gain access to that very masterly volume. (which will be a model, in this kind of writing, to after ages, as it is a noble monument of that gentleman's learning and penetration) this may possibly plead for any imperfection. He shall, however, observe in his own defence, that any rigid criticism upon his introducing what some will say, names and families too modern, appears altogether frivolous, as BUCHANAN and others. on these times, represent our present chiestains in Lo-THIAN, MERSE, and FIFE, as present at these encounters with the SEANDIAN princes.

ERRATA.

Page 8th, l. 22, for pirates read Denmark; p. 10, l. 10, for ruth'd read ruth'd; p. 11, l. 8, for the read the; p. 15, l. 9, read Taia; p. 19, l. 8, for the read his.

THE

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INVASTON AND FALL

OF

SUENO

CANTO

Such were the words of the Bards in the days of the Jong, when the King heard the music of harps, and the tales of other times.

Ossian.

OUD blew the storm from Norway's shore,
The wild waves growl'd with deaf'ning sound,
As Eurus trump was heard to roar,
Must'ring his airy squadrons round.

Sadly along the groaning wood
Demons of death were heard to call,
In furnmons, where proud bulwarks frood,
In warlike strength round William's hall.

There, 'mid her faithful vassal train, With hearts to conquer, or to die, Erizz sar; her beauteous mein Eclips'd by Sorrow's tearful eye.

In fable weeds her princely state
Was veil'd; the charm of youthful bloom;
In clouds of grief; for she had wept,
Am orphan, o'er her parents tomb.

No father's arm to shield this flow'r,
No mother's wakeful care to tend,
No brother bold 'gainst hostile pow'r.

To rise the noble orphan's friend.

Helpless herself, and all forlorn,
Her guide, her guard, sweet Innocence,
'Gainst worldly rapine, fraud, or scorn,
Her guardian high stood Providence.

And tidings of fierce Sugn' were told, How winged fleets in dread array Approach'd: the SCANDIAN vulture bold, With keen eye hov'ring o'er his prey,

Their brother's blood stain'd BRORAS * plain, Vengeful they fear nor wind nor waves; They vow'd lost trophies to regain, Or find their warlike kinsmens grave.
With twelve tall ships, and horrent arms,
His banners streaming to the gale,
First Sueno ruth'd with fierce alarms,
With him three thousand warriors sail.
Fierce followed on the foaming flood,
With equal ships and equal host,
Like eaglet bent on spoil and blood,
The furious prince, his father's boaft.
Next steer'd for Scotia's verdant plains,
HENGIST the Great, the DANISH pride;
Two thousand axes arm his trains,
Eight tow'ring vessels stem the tide.
ALRIC, who taught his helmed crew
To launch keen shafts from DOFRINE hows,
With five thips o'er the billows flew.
A thousand skill'd the train compose,

^{*}A little town upon the coast, watered by the river of that name; it lies about 12 miles to the northward of the stately castle of Dunrobin, the seat of the noble and ancient Earls of Sutherland.

Then, widely fain'd for naval broils, Came Norvain, with two thousand spears, Full richly deck'd in Inglish spoils; Now swift for Scotia's strand he sters.

Last, with twelve hundred in his train,
Their Gothic swords in gore to steep,
All vengeful, for his kinsmen slain,
Fell Hubba plough'd the foaming deep.

And now was heard the chosen band,

- " Erst sent to scour the winding coast,
- "Th' invaders march along the strand,
- " From tempelts 'scap'd a dreadful host.
- " Full fifty hundred bowmen bold,
- "And fifty hundred fpearmen bright,
- "With warlike steeds and banner'd gold,
- "To lord it o'er these walls to-night."

Appall'd'her faithful guardian rofe,

- "Good heaven's great help be here she cries;
- "We fall the spoil of bloody foes,
- " Whose outrage heaven and earth defies.
- ". And have we liv'd to mourn the chains
- " Of pirates! to behold, fad fate!
- "These tow'rs laid waste, her rich domains,
- " ELIZ' a flave on Sueno wait!".

Trembling she sunk; the struggling croud. Of pow'rful passions teal'd her tongue; Each bosom bled; while echoing land. With semale cries, the castle rung.

Then from her feat, with accents new,
For beav'n the princely maid infpir'd
She hus befpoke her vaffals true,
In guife which drooping courage fir'd.

- "" The DANES come on to win these tow'rs,
- " Eager and mighty for the fray;
- We But heav'n shall blast their vaunting pow'rs,
- * Fell havock pierce their deep array.
- " Just is our cause, and I have heard
- " How my forefathers, just and brave,
- "In bloody fields their standard rear'd,
- "Their country's faith, or rights to fave.
- " Oft have I heard the wondrous tale
- " Of glorious deeds perform'd by few s
- "Then why shou'd chilling fears prevail,
- "When heav'n these wonders may renew.
- " Hence, hence with fears, ill-tim'd delay!
- " Heroic ardor fires my breaft,
- "And heav'n may send ere morning ray,
- " A hand up-raising the depress'd."

She ceas'd; her words, like vernal show'rs. To drooping fields, new life convey'd, To arm the brave, with from the tow'rs, Now helms and blazon'd shields display'd.

They shine in arms; and high in air Her banners of defiance flew; Such was the sign, her bands repair From neighbouring stats a dauntless crew.

The bridge up-drawn, from its dark cell-Ruth'd iron PORTCULLIS harsh and strong: Peal'd from the spire war's dreadful knelle; The warriors o'er the bulwarks throng.

The DANES advant'd in guim array, Eierce entigns streaming to the wind:
Flight and amazement mark their way;
Stalk Death and Solitude behind.

In front, high plum'd, in glitt'ring arms.
Rode gallant Suen', his Captains round,
Stern vet'rans train'd to war's alarms,
And now the herald-trumpets found.

- " Set wide your gates! I proffer life,
- "Rebels, receive your rightful Lord,
- " Nor madly dare in bloody strife,
- "The rage of Sueno's conqu'ring fword.

- 44 If, desp'rate, ye contemn my grace,
- "And SCANDIA's legions dare defy,
- "Come forth and combat face to face
- "In bulwarks skulking cowards ly...
- Who wins the field shall share the spoils.
- "These rich domains, this castle fair,
- "With titles proud to crown kis toils,
- "She vanquish'd death; and black despair."

He faid, and 'vengeful in his mood, With furious brigade, forc'd his way," Normark'd the Bowmen where they stood. With winged deaths to meet their prey.

Thrice strove the narrow pass to gain, And thrice the feather'd jav'lins flew; At ev'ry flight stretch'd on the plain. Full forty gallant DANES they slew.

Enrag'd, and mourning wars mischance, Sign of retreat, he winds his horn, Swore by his gods, the Danish lance Should shake their proudest walls ere morn.

The morning blaz'd with fiery ray,
Purpling the plain and WILLIAM's tow'rs,
Ush'ring the havock of the day,
And fiercely march'd the Danish pow'rs.

Full in the van with foldier's skill, And foldier's pride his camp he plac'd; The rivers urg'd his trenches fill, And rising tow'rs his rampart grac'd.

Hence ten long days and ten long nights. His flings and archers ply'd the foe, Till, pity it was, in random fights, Full many a youth was laid full low.

Thick from the walls, 'the iron show'r Of arrowy sleet and missis came; Back rush'd fierce sire-brands to devour Their bulwarks whelm'd in stench and stame.

Harrass'd and torn with galling wounds,
The little host their turrets grac'd,
A braver host on Scottish grounds
The rage of DENMARK never fac'd:

From rank to rank, in nedding creft

And burnish'd arms, Eliza slew,

"Fight on, brave hearts, Hope in my breast,"

Still whispers what great heav'n may do."

Long hung the war in doubtful scale,'
Resolv'd on death before they'd yield;
Till savage numbers 'gan prevail
With perseverance o'er the field.

Their ev'ry hope of fuccour fled, Despair unmans the vet'ran's soul; Their spears no more with success sped, Their bows no more the Dane controus.

And now the circling most was past, Fierce tribes with raging fury stung, To burst the gates like thunder prest; Within lament and uproar rung.

In van, like MARS, with THRACIAN bands, The furious chief drew ev'ry eye, As dread he strove with blazing brands. To scale, and fire the turrets high.

And now loud burfting bands give way, Redoubled axes rend the gates, The murd'rer marks his trembling prey, The fword of bloody flaughter waits.

One raging hour had funk thy tow'rs, ELIZA! fack'd by fire and fword; And thou with all thy loyal pow'rs. Hadft bled, or own'd a foreign lord.

When lo! loud pealing on the ear, The clanging trumpet's filver found, With trampling steeds, spoke succour near, With shouts the hills and dales rebound.

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He comes! the happy watchman cries, to aged with all his hoft; which he comes!—the King with all his hoft; which he comes like lightning from the skies, which have the state of the state
And now their fovereign diege is heard, which was I all "Health to the brave in WILLIAM'S Hall "O'er Suen' the brand of death is rear'd, "Come forth and see th' invader's fall!
Loud o'er the tow'rs the tidings runger, and Meril, carried the bands like long lost brethren meet, ablaids anciral this Fond o'er her charge the guardian hung, and he is the loud acclaims their sovereign greet.
Advancing where in fight the down, Gave ample space for war's array, He bid the horns, with lordly frown, Defy the Dane in bloody fray.
In burnish'd arms on fiery steed, His red plumes dancing in the gale, He shone and swore bold Sugn' should bleed, Nor one return to tell the tale.
The said foot pall of a divising to the first of the firs

[45]

* Great MARCH who foil'd in bloody fields
The ENGLISH and BATAVIAN arms;
St. CLAIR and WEEMS with blazon'd shields,
Who trophies won in sea alarms.

PERTH, ERSKINE, LESLIE, mighty Thanes, Dread guardians of the SCOTTISH shore, STEWART, LYON, led their martial trains, And rous'd them with the tales of yore.

From TAIAO's filver branching stream, Sworn guardian to bold WILLIAM's heir, Great MURRAY march'd with daz'ling gleam Of spears and bucklers founding far.

From winding TWEED's green pleasing dale.

Came princely Scot, his country's boast,

His Captains brave in shining mail,

ELLIOT and HARDINE join the host.

With NISBET fam'd in martial broils,
And WHITEFOORD march his deep array;
Full proudly deck'd in EDWARD's fpoils,
Rush'd Scot to meet his foreign prey.

^{*} The martial atchievements of this warlike branch sprung from the noble house of Douglas, and the memorable exploits of the other heroes here celebrated, may be seen at large in the historical tracts of Buchanan, Aberchomber, and other Scots writers.

But chief amid fam'd Scott A's peers, The flow'r and bulwark of the hoft, Lord Douglas rode with glitt'ring spears, And banner chief, his rightful boaft.

As lion gorg'd t'ward Nilus plain, O'er Nubian mountains bends his way, So he fair England's champions flain, Came rous'd to rend the Danish prey.

And by his fide in GALLIC mail, His 'squire when PIERCY he defy'd, Rode trusty Colville of the Dale, In ev'ry field and fortune try'd.

He lov'd his lord, and to his race Left all his store, a loyal heart, Which envy's tooth cou'd ne'er efface, Nor galling scorn's envenom'd dart.

Though neither wealth, nor titl'd name, May to this faithful 'fquire belong, Yet shall the Muse record his fame, Resounding in some suture song.

CANTO II.

Quis te, Magne Cato; tacitum, aut te, Cosse, relinquat?

Quis Gracchi genus, aut geminos duo fulmina belli

Scipiadas, cladem Libyæ!

VIRG. Æn. 6.

Peal'd on the harp the martial strain
Of CHEVIOT's field, deign to inspire
Me, rudest of the tuneful train.

So, happ'ly charm'd, the nicer ear Of peers and courtly dames, my verse May suit, while I, devoid of fear, Their triumphs and their toils rehearse.

As bellowing herds rush on amain, Who long had sought with rival rage Each other, thus in dusty plain, With thund'ring sound the hosts engage.

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The neighing steeds, the clang of arms, The brigades rushing to the war, The groans of death, the proud alarms, Up the long dales re-echo far.

Earl Douglas fierce with Scottish spears Thro' broken squadrons rends his way, SIWARD and HORSA, 'mid their peers, Pierc'd by his lance, expiring lay.

Circling the Danish bowmen brave, The phalanx firm, with arrowy flight: Where March! thy bloody falchions wave, They fall, or fly in wild affright.

Thrice on the right, Scot charg'd amain, The flaughter'd heaps around him grew: Great HENGIST, wasteful on the plain, From his proud steed the chieftain threw.

Like ANTEUS with reviving force, Dread HENGIST on his rival fprung, Whose thirsty spear arrests his course, He falls; his brazen armour rung.

ALRIC, who saw his brother bleed, For vengeance bent his DOFRINE bows. Fierce archers ply with bloody speed, Before them sink their vanquish'd foes. O'er LEADMOIR, TAINO, RANALD, flain, With founding fhafts he urg'd his way, Till BRUCE, with WEEMS, repell'd the DANE, Like raging wolf rob'd of his prey.

With phalanx firm, their yielding throng, Bold WHITEFOORD gores with briftling spears, O'er DRURO slain his guards among. The flaming falchion SINCLAIR rears.

LYON, LESLIE, ERSKINE, on the left, With quiver'd archers gall'd them fore, Thro' helm and brazen hauberk cleft, By MURRAY's ax they fink in gore.

Nor shall thy prowess pass unsung, In council great as in the field, DALRYMPLE! thou! with trophies hung. Of ALRIC slain his bow and shield.

A youth there was of good degree; From FORTHA's winding floods he came; His fire, renown'd for loyalty, In bloody fields had purchas'd fame:

His filver'd age o'ertoil'd the knight, In peace reposing vaunts his scars; His steady clan, with lances bright, Follow'd young CHARTERS to the wars. He saw how Sueno's sterp rate bands Full many a wasteful inroad made, How GREME beneath his mighty hands, And active Keith in dust were laid.

He saw his bravest vassals bleed,.
And stung beneath his fov'reign's eye,
Follow, ye brave! your course I lead
To glorious death or trophies high.

They pass'd the archers proud alarms,
They pass'd the wings with courage true,
Their banner'd crow with daring hand
To seize like fire the hero slew.

Ah! youth, too brave! ah! haples fire! What magic footh'd thy fears! to yield. That fon in battle to expire, Whose arm thy tott'ring age might shield.

Where e'er his bloody coursers turn, A thousand deaths are on the wing, A thousand lances round him burn, In air a thousand jav'lins sing.

Nor pointed spears retard his course, Valour thro' these can burst its way; Shouting he claims with matchless force, In throat of death his destin'd prey.

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Thrice thro' he charg'd the center band, Stern guardians of their magic fign; They fink before his wasteful brand, And with their lives their charge resign.

Then to the king, triumphant flies.
With trophy of immortal fame.
The king receives the glorious prize,
The host resounds his TITL'D NAME.

This SUENO faw, he winds his horn,
Then gath'ring firm his deep array,
By mad despair and fury torn,
He puts his fate on one essay.

Singling amid' his cirching peers.

The king of Scots, with barb'rous cry.

Th' invader rush'd 'mid thousand spears

Bent to regain, or bravely die.

Then man to man, and horse to horse.

Their idle bows were cast aside,

The regal javelin mank'd its course

In noble Hubba's warm blood dy'd.

WEMYS, ERSKINE, LESLIE, launch their spears,
And REGAN, HAGO, ROGART, slew,
As CLEYN his pondrous mace uprears,
The shafts of Nisbet pierc'd him thro'.

Red raging flaughter stalks around,

The wasting ax descends amain;

Brain'd from their warlike steeds to ground;

Bold GREY and HEPBURN bite the plain.

Like tygress rob'd with ensigns sierce,
And slaming blade, Suen' urg'd his way,
Now thro' the royal band they pierce,
Now, shouting, claim the doubtful day.

Chill horror froze ELIZA's blood,

She mark'd the peril of the king,

With fuccours brave, who ready frood,

She left the walls like hawk on wing.

Mid' war and death she sought her love, we The Dane had push'd him from the sield;
Till Douglas turn'd the Danish sword,
And rush'd with interposing shield.

As noble floods, half drain'd, receive

The mountain torrents aften rain,

And thunder thro', fo rush'd the brave

With noise and ardor on the DANE.

O'er steeds and groaning heaps they go,.
The charge resounds, the consist burns,
Till Scot, thy lance, laid Norvath low,
And o'er young Suen' the father mourns.

The king's keen pole-ax cleft him down,
As rude he struck ELIZA's crest,
The sire who saw him ghastly groan
To great revenge his soul addrest.

He call'd his fifty knights fo true,
With huge blades arm'd, and helms of brass,
Then at the king like lightning flew,
Cutting his way with dreadful pass.

- "Turn, murd'rer, turn, the fire demands,
- "Thy life to footh my Surno's shade,
- " Nor thine alone, thy fervile bands,
- "With blood shall drench my thirsty blade.

Then STUART, ALPIN, in his course,
With interposing LAING, he slew;
His steel high rais'd with vengeful force,
To earth the king's proud courser threw.

Again he rais'd his desp'rate arm,

The king on foot desy'd the Dane,

Fierce to his aid, with loud alarm,

The nobles rush, a loyal train.

With founding bow, and quiver'd pride, and it is fam'd in fong,
ELIZA swift was seen to ride,
And fend keen shafts amid the throng.
Half had she sped her feather'd store,
When urg'd by fate, her arrow keen
Deep in Suen's shoulder drank the gore,
Like wounded bull more raging feen.
He turn'd, and reckless in his wrath Assail'd the maid; with ardor meet,
Earl Douglas turn'd the brand of death, 1999 and Brack "
Then charg'd the DANE like eagle fleet.
As lions fierce, on Lisva's plain, which is the month of the Encounter, foaming o'er; their spoil, which is the month of the content of the c
Some heifer fair, the leaders twain; a mile of a leafer?
Thus dread commence their warlike toil. Egill I have CI
They bend, they wheel, then wengeful man; it is it is
With clanging roar their bucklers close;
Aloft their circling falchions burn, at his a bit and or core
Thro' riven mail the crimfon flows.

^{*} Camilla, a princess of the Volscian line. See the beautiful description of this warlike maid. Virg. End of 7th An.

[25]

Full where his helm shone waving high,
The DOUGLAS' SWORD with gaping wound,
Like lightning brandish'd from the sky,
Fell'd bloody SUENO to the ground.

The DANE with all his chieftains slain, The vulgar rout like driven deer, Rush to the shore, their ships to gain, But Douglas follow'd on the rear.

The desp'rate rovers on the strand He quell'd, and to compleat their fate, Fir'd the tall ships with slaming brand, Then stern, denounc'd their service state.

- "Down with your arms, ye flaves! relign!
- " Soldiers no more; by rightful doom,
- "The fword devouring should confign
- "Your pale trunks to a wat'ry tomb.
- "But mercy prompts our gracious lord,
- "Go him on fuppliant knees implore,
- " His bondmen captive by the sword,
- "You hail high SCANDIA's hills no more."

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Them guarding with a trusty band,
Slowly he cours'd the bloody field,
His * 'squire supports in ready hand
Sueno's huge sword, his helm and shield.

He pass'd the palmers on the plain,
Tending the wounded and the dead,
They cry'd, but sew of note are slain,
Though numbers of the vulgar bleed.

He curb'd his steed, on rising mound †
A chiestain's tomb his notice drew,
New grac'd with pillar'd mass around,
High hung with wreaths of sun'ral hue.

- "In this low cell, the Dantsh boaft,
- "Stern Sueno's breathless corse is laid,
- "Here fall'n with all his gallant hoft,
- "These rites shall sooth the soldier's shade."
- * Colville of the Dale: The first of this name was a French knight, who came over to Douglas, Duke of Turraine; that they were favourite vastals, appears both from the Scotch and English history. Their lands are now swallowed up into the vast estate of Douglas, but their loyalty has continued the same, never to be alienated. Their most steady and most singular attachment to the cause and fortunes of young Douglas for these many years past, is sufficiently known to all the world.

[†] The tomb of the Danish king is still pointed out at a little distance from the castle of Dunrobin. See Bowen's geogr.



He took his chair next to the king. At whose right-hand ELIZA fat; And now the livered fervants bring In order rang'd the regal treat, Store piles the board; the gen'rous wine In streaming goblets circles round, As happiest they at feast combine, The toils of war with glory crown'd. To folema harp and warbling lyres, The choral train fierce deeds rehearse Of youthful knights, and warlike fires, The chiefs attend the martial verse. And now the king, who favour show'd Much to the fair and guardian grave, Profer'd his boon by right bestow'd On HER so loyal, wife and brave. Silence impos'd, where high he fat Begirt with peers and barons bold, He thus began, with dordly state, His fov'reign mandate to unfold: "Tis meet distinguish'd worth should share "Distinguish'd praise, to fan the fire "In this bad world, lest virtue fair

"O'erlook'd in noble minds expire,



And now with filver trumpets found, The heralds peal her TITLES HIGH Loudly the walls and tow'rs rebound, As if they did the world defy.

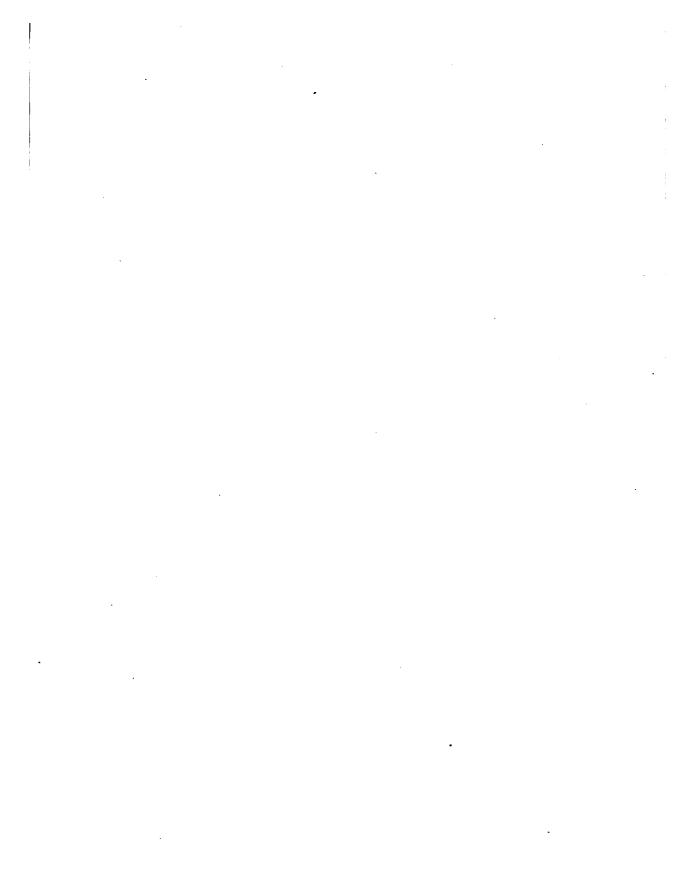
Thus THEY the happiest train that e'er Conveen'd in hall, or forest wide, Protract the feast with jocund cheer, Till morn array'd the green hill side.

And now I take my leave, and pray
This lawless rapine be laid low,
Still, like this HOST of BROTHERS, may
Our PERRS repel the common foe.

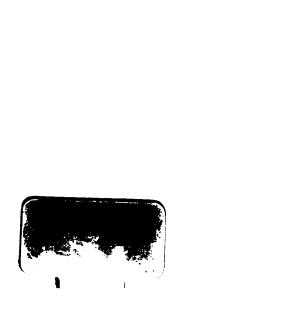
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